

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

*Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
Acting Commissioner*

*Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff*

March 1, 2011

Rep. William Tong, Co-Chairman
Sen. Bob Duff, Co-Chairman
Banks Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 957 AN ACT CONCERNING NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

This proposed bill would expand current law to include registration requirements on all vacant and occupied structures in foreclosure. These properties are often neglected and riddled with criminal activity and public health and safety violations that endanger inhabitants and other persons. When an emergency occurs at one of these properties, the municipal officials need to locate the responsible owner or agent promptly. Troopers in municipalities without organized police departments face the same difficulties as local officials when prompt contact with the property owner is required to resolve a public safety issue. Should there be a fire in a structure undergoing foreclosure, fire investigators from the Office of State Fire Marshal may need to contact the property owner to obtain permission to enter the structure to conduct their investigation, or to obtain information about mechanical systems or other aspects of the structure or its history that may assist in determining the cause and origin of a fire. Trying to determine who to contact in the middle of a fire, or other emergency, makes the job of an emergency responder even more challenging than it otherwise should be.

Passage of this bill would help to resolve a public safety problem municipalities currently experience with foreclosure properties by providing police, fire, health, and building officials prompt access to the responsible person, or owner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Col. Danny R. Stebbins".

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
ACTING COMMISSIONER